

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1445

ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017

Management of Wetlands

Karandlaje Km. Shobha; Simha Shri Prathap

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of wetlands identified for conservation and management in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Draft Wetland (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2016, seek to decentralise wetlands management to States with the Centre having a say only in "exceptional cases" and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether certain wetlands in the country have reportedly been impacted due to rapid urbanization, industrialization, various developmental activities and other anthropogenic pressures;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government for conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) So far, 115 wetlands in 24 States and two Union Territories have been identified for conservation and management under the National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) of the Ministry. The State-wise list of these wetlands is given in Annexure - I.

(b) For effective conservation and management of wetlands, a draft notification on Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2016 with a proposal to supersede the existing Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010, was published vide G.S.R. No. 385 (E) dated 31.03.2016 in the Gazette of India for seeking public comments/suggestions, in view of the fact that "Water" and "land" are the State subjects. The main provisions of the draft notification on Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2016 include: (i) Setting up of State Wetland/Lake Authorities by the respective State Governments /Union Territories (UTs) (ii) Empowering the State Government for regulation of activities within their jurisdiction, (iii) Identification and notification of wetlands by the State /UTs, and (iv) No provision for constitution of Central Wetlands Regulatory Authority (CWRA).

(c) to (e) A few wetlands in the country have reportedly been impacted due to rapid urbanization, industrialization, various developmental activities and other anthropogenic pressures. However, the provisions of the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 include prohibition of certain activities and restriction of activities which can be undertaken with the approval of State Governments/UTs in notified wetlands (Ramsar sites), process for identification of wetlands under different categories, criteria for notifying the wetlands for regulation under the Rules, etc.

This Ministry had been earlier implementing two separate programmes, namely National Wetland Conservation Programme (NWCP) and National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) for conservation and management of identified lakes and wetlands in the country. To have better synergy and avoid overlap, both the programmes have been merged in February, 2013 into an integrated scheme of National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for holistic conservation and restoration of wetlands and lakes for achieving the desired water quality enhancement, besides improvement in biodiversity and ecosystems through an integrated and multidisciplinary approach and a common regulatory framework. So far, an amount of Rs. 153.67 crores has been released to the States/ UTs for conservation and management of 82 identified wetlands in the country. Similarly, an amount of Rs. 1096.09 crore has been approved for conservation and management of 63 lakes in 14 States. So far, an amount of Rs. 690.288 crores has been released to the State/UTs for conservation and management of lakes. The State-wise details of grants approved / released to the State Governments/UTs for conservation and management of lakes and wetlands are given in Annexure -II and Annexure -III, respectively.

In order to conserve lakes and wetlands in an integrated manner, all the States have been advised for giving high priority for constitution of State Wetland/ Lake Authorities, identification and notification of priority wetlands, development of integrated management plans, securing resources for implementation of management plans, monitoring and evaluation, strengthening research-management interface, etc.

Thirteen State Governments namely, Odisha, Meghalaya, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Bihar, Sikkim, Goa, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab have already constituted State Wetland/Lake Authorities for taking up matters relating to conservation and management of wetlands and lakes in an integrated and holistic manner. Specific lake authorities like Chilika Development Authority, Loktak Development Authority, Wullar Conservation and Management Authority and East Kolkata Wetland Management Authority have also been setup.
